



newsletter



Looking out over the frosty new lawns on Thursday 17th January, when the container was moved into position and the day before the snow fell.

Annual General Meeting

The 2013 AGM will be on **Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm** at the Star & Garter in Silsoe.

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of 2012 AGM and matters arising
 3. Reports: **Chairman**
Secretary
Treasurer
CA Tournament Secretary
Club Tournament Secretary
Groundsman
 4. Election of officers
 5. Dates for 2013
 6. Plans and schedule for clearing old site
 7. Status of new lawns
 8. Status of facilities at new site
 9. Access and playing arrangements at new site
 10. Tournament catering
 11. EH, CA and EACF news
 12. Any other business
- If you can't get to the AGM but have a subject you would like us to discuss, please let me know.
 - Please check the details on your membership form, make any corrections and return it with your subscription before 1 April. You will then be sent your membership card which shows the relevant numbers for the locks on the door of the pavilion and the storage cupboard inside it. Membership cards must be carried at all times and shown to EH on request.
 - Please indicate your availability to help with tournament catering by circling dates on the membership form. If you've never done it before and what to know what's involved please call Tim Brewer.

- **Please return your form even if you don't want to renew your membership, or if you joined as a full member last year and therefore don't have to pay.** In the former case it helps us maintain an accurate membership list, in the latter we need to receive the form before you can be sent your membership card.

Subscriptions for 2013

The subscription rates for 2013 are as follows:

Full membership	£50
CA levy	£7.95
Junior membership (under 16)	£10
16-18 or full time student	£20

- The CA levy is payable by all full members unless they are also members of another CA **member** club and have nominated that club as their main club. Any member who is also a member of a CA **affiliated** club has to pay the levy.
- There is a family membership option. If two adults in a family both take out full membership then any children under 16 from that family get free junior membership.
- If you want to pay your subscription using internet banking please confirm your intention to do so with Eric beforehand, and use sort code 20-05-74, account 80983861 (Wrest Park Croquet Club). Please make sure your name is referenced in the payment.
- The green fee for members' individual guests and any groups for which individual members are responsible remains at £3.60 per person per session. Please record these payments in the Visitor's Book in the pavilion. Members can bring three guests free of charge during the season.

- The green fee for independent visiting groups requiring a member to supervise them is now £5 per person and the member who is looking after the group can claim £20 expenses.

Dates for 2013

March

31 Deadline for clearing old site

April

13 Social day from 11am

20-21 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

May

17-19 CA AC Handicap tournament

26-27 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

June

16 Club GC singles tournament

22 CA GC B level tournament

July

5-7 CA AC Advanced tournament

21 Club GC doubles tournament

August

3-4 CA AC Advanced tournament

25-26 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

September

13-15 CA AC Handicap tournament

- Anyone organising home matches, group visits or any other events must let me know the proposed dates as soon as possible so they can be included in the calendar in the pavilion and on the website. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required. The fact that there will be fewer lawns available means there may be occasions when they are fully booked. Although we will always try and keep a lawn free for casual play this cannot be guaranteed, particularly when a CA tournament is scheduled.

Social on 13 April from 11am

This will be an open day with food and drink provided. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the club, this would be an ideal opportunity to introduce them.

Golf croquet club tournaments

I have set aside dates for the singles and doubles tournaments as usual, and repeat the usual entreaty to members to invite friends from local groups or clubs. These are primarily social events so the more the merrier.

I will also repeat the usual request for someone to manage each day. If you are prepared to do this, then please put an M next to the tick indicating your entry. Having a manager appointed in advance is a considerable help in organising the event.

Free entry to Wrest Park for club members

English Heritage have kindly agreed that club members can continue to have free entry to Wrest Park on days when it is open to the public. To take advantage of this offer you will have to use the official visitor car park and entrance and present your membership card when you go in. From 1st April the old route into the park will be out of bounds.

This obviously doesn't include days when there are special events such as the St George's Day Festival, when you will have to pay the full entry fee like anyone else.

Progress at new site and playing arrangements for 2013

The weather since the middle of January has made it difficult to do much work on the lawns themselves and has held up work on the pavilion. Nevertheless we have completed the following:

- The container has been moved to its intended position
- Slabs have been laid in front of the container as a base for the metal ramp
- Slabs have been laid from the base inclined to ground level to allow the mower and other machinery to be taken in and out of the container (due w/c Mon 4 March)
- The garage next to the pavilion has been demolished so that the old changing room can be brought up and positioned on the garage base
- The lean-to at the back of the pavilion has been emptied, painted internally and had a new door fitted and stained
- The pavilion has had new front doors and a keypad lock fitted
- An existing filing cupboard in the pavilion has been refurbished and fitted out to hold all the catering equipment
- All the mowers and other machinery have been moved up to the new site, together with most of the playing equipment and other contents of the existing buildings

The plan outlined in the last newsletter is still on track, i.e. members enter the pavilion via a keypad lock and thus get access to the playing equipment which will be stored in the cupboard in the pavilion and in the lean-to at the back. We still have to rearrange the various items in a logical manner; at the moment they are crammed in wherever we found room.

Once the changing room has been moved the essential steps will be complete. Later we intend to lay more slabs to create linking pathways and do whatever's necessary to bring the nettles and weed grasses under control.

We also have to dismantle and dispose of the existing pavilion and groundsman's shed, which will have to be cut up and loaded into a skip, and also lift up and stack the remaining slabs on pallets. More on this to follow.

We will be bringing you up to date at the AGM and will issue further updates via email, and we hope that you all have sufficient confidence in the future to renew your subscriptions for the new season.

Interesting times, as they say.

John Bevington

28 February 2013